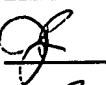
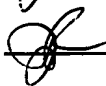
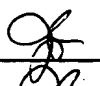
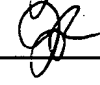


<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK  OFFICE  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE          STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>  (37 CFR 1.98(b))	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b> BIF103835	<b>SERIAL NO.</b>  <b>APPLICANT</b> Frédéric LOUART, Jean FERRAND, Lionel DROMAIN, Dirk STEITZ
	<b>FILING DATE</b> August 1, 2001	<b>GROUP</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**


EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,660,899	08/97	ROCKNEY et al.			
	AB	5,843,542	12/98	BRUSHAFER et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

**FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION**

DOCUMENT NO.	PUBL. DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OF- FICE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
 AJ	GB 2 249 151	04/92	Great Britain	—	yes
 AK	EP 0 157 956	10/85	Europe	—	yes
	AL				
	AM				
	AN				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)**

AO	
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<b>EXAMINER</b> 	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b> 7-31-02
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EXAMINER Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
 Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.